Conference on Disarmament

12 February 2018

English only

Draft decision

The Conference on Disarmament,

Cognizant of its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum established by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I),

Noting that it provides its Member States with a platform to engage in negotiations, on the basis of the rule of consensus, with the objective of enhancing the security of all at the lowest necessary level of armaments and military forces,

Convinced that disarmament and arms limitations, particularly in the nuclear field, contributes to the prevention of the danger of nuclear war and strengthening of international peace and security and for the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Taking into account developments in the field of international peace and security of concern to the Conference,

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2116,

Noting that the agenda continues to provide the opportunity to address contemporary disarmament and international security challenges,

Recalling paragraph 28 of its rules of procedure which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda,

Taking into account the several proposals tabled since 2000 for the programme of work of the Conference and the interest to see the Conference return to substantive work and negotiations,

Conscious of the need to conduct its work in a balanced and comprehensive manner,

Without prejudice to the right of any member State of the Conference to raise any subject relevant to the work of the Conference at a plenary and to further decisions that may be taken on substantive work and negotiations;

Cognizant of the complex nature of the issues under its purview, the wide range of perspectives thereon, including on the levels of maturity of their consideration,

Seeking to progressively advance the substantive work of the Conference in fulfilment of its mandate in accordance with SSOD I;

decides:

1. To establish, in accordance with Paragraph 23 of its rules of procedure, subsidiary bodies on agenda items 1 (one) to 4 (four), and one on, agenda items 5 (five), 6 (six) and 7 (seven), which could also consider emerging and other issues relevant to the Conference. In their work the subsidiary bodies would pursue, inter alia:

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(a) To reach at an understanding on the areas of commonalities in the Conference on Disarmament by taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future;

(b) Deepening technical discussions and progressively broadening areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, of relevant experts as well as representatives of civil society;

(c) Consider effective measures, including possible legal instruments for negotiations.

2. Each subsidiary body will be chaired by a coordinator appointed annually by the Conference, under the guidance of the respective Presidencies and with due regard for rotation on the basis of equitable regional distribution.

3. The subsidiary bodies shall conduct their work in accordance with Paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure, with even allocation of time. In accordance with Paragraph 24 of the Rules of Procedure, the subsidiary bodies shall meet formally as well as informally, as required.

4. The progress achieved and agreed on in each subsidiary body would be submitted by its coordinator to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

5. This decision will be reconfirmed, as appropriate, at the beginning of the subsequent annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament.